

## National Field Day

The South African Radio League National Field Day will take place between 10:00 UTC on Saturday 14 February and 10:00 UTC on Sunday 15 February with CW, phone and digital activity on 160 to 10 metres, excluding the WARC bands.

# The Africa All Mode International DX Contest

The Africa all mode International DX Contest will be run from 12:00 UTC on Saturday 14 March to 12:00 UTC on Sunday 15 March with CW, phone and RTTY activity on 160 to 10 metres, the WARC bands are excluded. The objective of this all mode contest is to stimulate contesting from Africa. All participating stations worldwide may work any country during the contest period, but QSOs with radio amateurs from Africa is encouraged as reflected in the higher points being awarded in the scoring mechanism.

Italy, organized by ARI (Associazione Radioamatori Italiani).

In this week, teams of young radio amateurs from several countries will be participating in all kind of amateur radio activities. Think about workshops, contesting and ARDF, we will try to show many aspects of the radio hobby. Of course, you will also get the chance to learn about other cultures; in the famous intercultural evening, you will get the chance to try food and drinks from all participating countries. As we go to Italy, we will also show you the country and Italian traditions.

This is just a little information about what we are going to do in this event. It will be a great experience for all participants, which they will never forget. To get a better feeling about this, have a look at the gallery from previous events.

When: 18 to 25 July 2015

Participants: each IARU member society is invited to take part with a team. A team consist of maximum 5 persons, 4 Persons with the age 15 to 25 years and one person is dedicated as team leader.

Location: Marina di Massa, Tuscany

Fees: travel costs to Pisa airport and Euro 25 per participant All other costs (accommodation, food, activities) will be covered, main funder of the event is IARU Region 1.

# ARRL Board Okays Changes to DXCC Program as well as VHF and Above Contesting Rules

The ARRL Board of Directors has tweaked the DX Century Club (DXCC) rules to clarify and expand their recognition of remotely controlled station technology <a href="http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-rules">http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-rules</a>. It also has added a rule that puts greater ethical responsibility on operators with respect to remotely controlled operation. In addition, the Board adopted changes to the ARRL VHF/UHF contest rules that are aimed at encouraging greater participation. The Board took the actions during its annual meeting on 16 and 17 January in Windsor, Connecticut.

The DXCC Rules changes, which affect Section I, subsections 8 and 9, explain and extend how contacts with remotely controlled stations now may be applied toward the DXCC award. According to ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, the changes are subtle but significant. The modified rules make clear that contacts with legally licensed, land-based, remotely controlled stations count for DXCC, but the control point — the operator's location — of a remotely controlled station no longer has to be land based; the operator can be literally anywhere.

"It has always been permitted for a



#### January 2015

1 – New Year's Day; start of ZS90SARL; start of CQ Marathon

5 – NARC opens

10 and 11 - Hunting Lions in the Air

14 – Inland schools open

15 January - your input to the South African Radio League about the draft amendments to the radio regulations to sarlreqwq@sarlorq.za.

16 to 18 - PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest

21 – Coastal schools open

24 – Summer QRP Contest

29 - Up the Creek, Swellendam (ZS1)

30 - Stellenbosch Wine Festival (ZS1)

31 – J&B Met, Cape Town; the final day for your nominations for the South African Radio League awards, the Flea market at the ERB Clubhouse in Ebenezer Street, Benoni and closing date for the Summer QRP contest logs

## February 2015

2 – World Wetlands day

5 - HABEX-10 Mission meeting at ERB Club house

7 - SARL@HOME at the NARC

7 and 8 - AWA CW Day; Midmar Mile Swim, PMB

11 to 25 – Rhodes Stopesitfees (ZS2)

13 February - International Radio Day

14 – Valentine's Day

14 and 15 – SARL National Field Day; Berry Festival, Magoebaskloof (ZS6)

15 February - closing date for PEARS VHF/UHF logs

18 – Ash Wednesday

18 and 19 - The 2015 Sub-Sahara Spectrum Management Conference, Johannesburg

21 – SARL Youth Contest

22 - SARL Digital Contest

27 – National Milk Tart Day

27 and 28 – SARL Council Strategic Meeting, Jhb; Clarens Beer Festival (ZS4).

QSO to count for both stations, if either station was operated remotely from a control point within the same DXCC entity," Sumner explained. "Now the location of the operator doesn't matter; the operator could be on the far side of the Moon if he or she could figure out how to remotely control a station on land back on Earth from there." Transmitter location continues to define a station's location, and, for DXCC purposes, all transmitters and

receivers must be located within a 500 metre diameter circle, excluding antennas.

Under the old rules, if either station was operated from a control point in *another* DXCC entity, the contact did not count for DXCC for *either* station. "This was unenforceable unless someone was transparent about what they were doing," Sumner said.

The Board further adopted a new rule, now Subsection 11 (subsequent rules will be renumbered accordingly), that acknowledges the reality of the technology enabling remote operation, and it puts greater responsibility on individuals when it comes to applying that technology ethically and responsibly.

"Issues concerning remotely controlled operating and DXCC are best dealt with by each individual carefully considering the ethical limits that he/she will accept for his/her DXCC and other operating awards," the new rule states. It adds, in part, "The owner of these achievements needs to be comfortable standing behind his/her award and numbers. Peer attention has always been a part of awards chasing, of course, but in these times with so many awards and so many players, it is more important than ever to 'play the game ethically."

Subsection 11 acknowledges that technological advances "add to the difficulty in defining rules for DXCC," but stresses that the intent of the rules is what are important. "It will continue to be up to the operator to decide what types of legal remote control operating he/she will use (if any) to contribute to an operating award," the new rule concludes.

The Board also adopted amendments to the General Rules for ARRL Contests above 50 MHz to encourage greater participation and band utilization <a href="http://www.arrl.org/general-rules-for-arrl-contests-above-50-mhz">http://www.arrl.org/general-rules-for-arrl-contests-above-50-mhz</a>. The changes become effective with the 2015 June ARRL VHF Contest. The revisions stemmed from recommendations offered by the Board's Programs and Services Committee's ad-hoc VHF and Above Revitalization subcommittee, composed of active VHF/UHF contesters, and



they received strong support from the VHF/UHF community.

The subcommittee was charged with developing recommendations to increase the level and breadth of ARRL VHF and above contest participation and encourage operation on lesser-used bands. As a start to the process, the Board approved three changes that will permit assistance for all operator categories, with no effect on entry category; permit self-spotting for all operator categories, and allow single operators to transmit on more than one band at a time.

The changes will permit assistance in arranging contacts, but not in conducting contacts. They will for example, allow a station to announce its location in a chat room, on a repeater, or even via e-mail.

In other actions, the Board instructed the HF Band Planning Committee, which soon will solicit members' comments on proposed changes to the ARRL HF Band Plans, to include the possibility of requesting that the FCC add RTTY and data privileges for Novices and Technicians on 15 metres.

The Board also authorised ARRL Headquarters staff to implement guidelines to expand opportunities for field checking of 160 metre QSL cards for DXCC.



# QRZ supports LoTW

QRZ Logbook now recognises contact confirmations from ARRL's Logbook of The World and users now can download their contacts from Logbook of The World directly into their QRZ Logbook.

QRZ.com has posted a LoTW Download Quick Start Guide. The QRZ.com User Support Centre can provide help with any problems or answer questions.

### HF Terrain Analysis (HFTA)

Stu, K6TU, has automated the process of generating terrain profiles for use with N6BV's HF Terrain Analysis (HFTA) program. To support HFTA's modelling, a user must first obtain a terrain profile, which describes the height of terrain around the antenna location. This process is cumbersome and time consuming as the source of the data must be located, downloaded then processed with MicroDEM. Terrain Profile Requests are available to any user with a registered account on K6TU.NET at no charge and no subscription to Stu's propagation prediction service is necessary. Stu's site maintains copies of both the USGS National Elevation Dataset (for the United States) and the NASA Shuttle Radar Topography Mission dataset enabling fast turnaround of requests.

Prediction for future solar cycles

NASA has released an updated prediction for future solar cycles <a href="http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.sht">http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.sht</a> <a href="mil">mil</a>. I cannot say 10 metre fans will be very happy but the low banders are probably celebrating in the streets!

Summarizing the report, "Cycle 24 will be a low cycle very likely to be followed by several other low or even lower cycles - supported by the current and historical data. Make the most of the current band conditions and upcoming DXpeditions - it certainly looks as if we are heading toward a 'Propagation Winter.'"

#### African Islands

IOTA frequencies

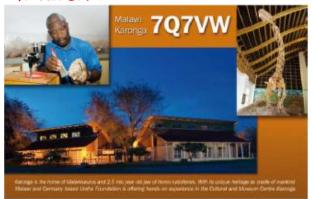
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040

18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Kerguelen Islands, FT5X. Gildas, TU5KG, is once again active as FT5XT/mm around the Kerguelen area. Most of the time he is active as a Maritime Mobile, but can be occasionally be active from the Islands. QSL via F4DXW (direct only please).

#### African DX



Malawi, 7Q. Karl, DK2WV will be active again as 7Q7VW from Radio Dinosaur FM - Karonga Museum (WW Loc. KI60xb), Malawi, from 26 January to 6 February. He plans to be active on 160 to 6 metres. Some suggested frequencies: 50,105 MHz - 1,827 (1,817 only JA) -

3,507 - 7,007 SSB (QRM permitting). QSL via DK2WV. Website www.grz.com/db/7Q7VW

Namibia, V5. Mario, DL4MFM, plans to activate several WWFF, WCA, and GMA references as V5/DL4MFM between 30 January and 4 February. Depending on weather conditions, possible locations may include the dune "Big Daddy", Naukluft Mountains Zebra Park (V5FF-0008), or Francois Fort (WCA V5-00005). QSL via DL4MFM, Bureau or direct.



South Africa, ZS. Right after his stay in Namibia, Mario, DL4MFM, moves on to South Africa and gets on the air as ZS6/DL4MFM on 7 and 8 February. He hopes to activate Highest Point (GMA ZT/GP-001) on the 7th and Magaliesberg (SOTA ZS/GP-008) on the 8th together with Eddie, ZS6BNE, Andries, ZS6VL, Cliriska, ZU6BV, and Mario, ZU6M. QSL via DL4MFM, direct or the bureau.

Note: GMA = German Mountain Award. SOTA = Summits on the Air. The SOTA HQ in the UK takes extremely long to register new summits - a ZS update was sent in September 2014, hopefully they will become available on 1 February 2015! GMA is easier and faster!

Namibia, V5. Werner, DC8QT, Georg, DD8ZX, and Klaus, DJ9KM, return to Namibia for a third time between 10 and 19 February. They will be active home calls on 160 to 10 m on CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. The group plans to join the CQ WPX RTTY Contest as V55V.

Botswana, A2. Schalk, A22LL, has been active on 20 metres SSB around 17:00 to 18:00 UTC. QSL direct to home call.

Morocco, 5E. Jim, W7EJ, and a team will be active as 5E5E from the CN2R Casablanca contest station in Morocco during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (28 and 29 March) as a Multi-2 entry. Operators mentioned are Juan, EA8RM, Jorge, EA9LZ, Mark, MODXR, Mark, LU8EOT, Manu, LU9ESD, Olli, OHOXX, and Jim, W7EJ. QSL via W7EJ. Visit the CN2R web page at <a href="http://cn2r.net">http://cn2r.net</a>

## History this Week

Week starting 26 January 2015

1788 - A patent for a steamboat was issued by the state of Georgia to Isaac Briggs and William Longstreet

1807 - London's Pall Mall became the first street of any city to be lit by gaslight

1838 - A US patent was issued for the screw propeller to John Ericsson (No 588), a Swedish American

1839 - Fox Talbot read a paper before the Royal Society, London, describing his photographic process using solar light

1879 - The first practical, usable incandescent filament electric light bulb was demonstrated to an audience of 700 by its inventor J.W. Swan

1880 - Thomas Edison received a patent (No 223 898) for his electric incandescent lamp

1893 - Thomas Edison received a patent (No 490 954) concerning the "Manufacture of Carbon Filaments for Electric Lamps"

January 1896 - The first speeding fine of one shilling was handed out to a British motorist driving 8 mph (12,8 km/h) in a 2 mph (3 km/h) zone.

1901 - The world's tallest geyser was discovered by Dr Humphrey Haines on the North Island of New Zealand

1906 - The world's steam car land speed record was set at 205,5 km/h

1907 - Dr Lee de Forest is issued with a US patent for the three-element vacuum tube

1913 - A patent for a "demountable tirecarrying rim" was issued to Louis Henry Perlman of New York City



#### Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 26 January to 2 February 2015

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 28 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, state, province or country,

name and SKCC no or power Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band; 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band

Multipliers: Each state, province or country

once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO

points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 30 January 2015

E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at:

http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/sks-

submit.html

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/

**QRP Fox Hunt** 

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 28 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country,

name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 29 January 2015

E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:

http://www.grpfoxhunt.org/winter\_rules.htm

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 28 January and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 29 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or

country

Work stations: Once per band QSO Points: 1 point per QSO Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 31 January 2015

Post log summary at:

http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 30 January

Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total Q50

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 February 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:

http://www.3830scores.com/

Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:

http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 30 January

HF Happenings No 642 January 2015

Mode: CW Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country,

name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 31 January 2015

E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:

http://www.grpfoxhunt.org/winter\_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint Ladder

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 30 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20 m Classes: Single Op Max power: 100 watts Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA

station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (ex-

cept W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 February 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:

http://www.3830scores.com

Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:

http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

Feld Hell Sprint

00:00 - 23:59 UTC 31 January

Mode: Feld Hell

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5

watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 7 February 2015

Upload log at:

https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/

Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:

https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Ho

me/contests/sprints/waaaeo-sprint

F9AA Cup, CW

12:00 UTC 31 January to 12:00 UTC 1 Febru-

ary

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 2 m Classes: >100 W; >10 - 100 W; 10 W

Exchange: RST, serial no, license type and

country or F Dept

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with individual; 5 points per QSO with club; Bonus: 50 points

for each QSO with F8URC Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO

points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 3 March 2015

E-mail logs to: <a href="mailto:concoursf9aa@urc.asso.fr">concoursf9aa@urc.asso.fr</a>

Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:

http://www.site.urc.asso.fr/urchaut-6/om-

6/131-trophee-f9aa.html

**UBA DX SSB Contest** 

13:00 UTC 31 January to 13:00 UTC 1 Febru-

ary

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - low or high; Single Op Single Band - low or high; Single Op

QRP; Multi-Op; SWL

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts;

QRP: 10 watts

Exchange: ON: RST and serial no and province;

non-ON: RST and serial no Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with Belgian station; 3 points per QSO with other EU sta-

tions; 1 point per QSO with non-EU stations

HF Happenings No 642 January 2015

Multipliers: Each Belgian province once per band; Each Belgian prefix once per band; Each

EU DXCC country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 15 February 2015

E-mail logs to: ubassb@uba.be

Mail logs to: (none) Find rules at:

http://www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules/uba-

<u>dx-contest-rules</u>

North American SSB Sprint Contest

00:00 - 04:00 UTC 1 February

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max operating hours: 4 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no, your name and your state, province or

country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA

station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once; Each VE province once; Each North

American country (except W/VE) once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 8 February 2015 E-mail logs to: (see rules, web upload preferred)

Upload log at:

http://ssbsprint.com/submit-log/

Mail logs to: Chris Tate, N6WM, 12450 Del

Valle Rd, Livermore, CA 94550, USA Find rules at: http://ssbsprint.com/rules/

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB

20:00 - 21:30 UTC 2 February

Mode: SSB Bands: 80 m Only Classes: (none)

Exchange: RS and serial no QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 9 February 2015

Upload log at: <a href="http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-">http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-</a>

bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.rsqbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/r80mcc

.shtml

#### Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 3 February

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 4 February CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 4 February 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 5 February

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 18:00 - 19:00 UTC, (CW) 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (SSB) 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (FM) 21:00 - 22:00 UTC (Dig) 5 February

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 6 February

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 6 February NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 6 February

YL-ISSB QSO Party, CW, 00:00 UTC 7 February to 23:59 UTC 8 February

Triathlon DX Contest, 00:00 - 07:59 UTC 7 February (CW)

08:00 UTC-15:59 UTC 7 February (SSB) 16:00 - 23:59 UTC 7 February (RTTY)

Vermont QSO Party, 00:00 UTC 7 February to 24:00 UTC 8 February

10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB, 00:01 UTC 7 February to 23:59 UTC 8 February

Black Sea Cup International, 12:00 UTC 7 February to 11:59 UTC 8 February

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 7 February to 24:00 UTC 8 February

FYBO Winter QRP Sprint, 14:00 - 24:00 UTC 7 February

Minnesota QSO Party, 14:00 - 24:00 UTC 7 February

AGCW Straight Key Party, 16:00 - 19:00 UTC 7 February

British Columbia QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 7 February to 04:00 UTC 8 February

Mexico RTTY International Contest, 18:00 UTC 7 February to 17:59 UTC 8 February

AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party, 23:00 UTC 7 February to 23:00 UTC 8 February North American Sprint, CW, 00:00 - 04:00 UTC 8 February Classic Exchange, Phone, 14:00 UTC 8 February to 08:00 UTC 9 February ARRL School Club Roundup, 13:00 UTC 9 February to 23:59 UTC 13 February



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